

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Denis CHALON ) RE: Preliminary Amendment  
Serial No.: Not yet assigned )  
Filed: Concurrently herewith ) Our Ref: B-4457 619451-4  
For: "IMPROVED PROCESS AND )  
APPARATUS FOR EMAIL HANDLING" ) Date: January 9, 2002

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
Box New Patent Application  
Washington, D.C., 20231

Sir:

Prior to examination of the above-identified application, it is respectfully requested that the following amendments be made to the Claims:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please replace original Claims 7-8 and 10-11 with amended Claims 7-8 and 10-11, which are set forth below. (Appendix A, which is enclosed herewith, shows how original Claims 7-8 and 10-11 were amended to produce amended Claims 7-8 and 10-11.)

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the transmission step includes additional intervening steps such as spooling the email or handling the email by mail-servers or any other operations as may be required by the particular email implementations or system architecture.

8. (Amended) A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein following step (c) in claim 1, the sender amends the email and initiates a send operation in accordance with either step (b) in claim 1 whereupon the email is again subjected to the transmission

criteria, or the email is processed in accordance with step (d) in claim 1 where the email is immediately transmitted to the recipient(s) with no further intervention.

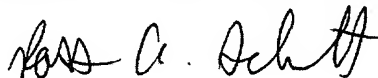
10. (Amended) A computer or network of computers adapted to operate in accordance with the method of claim 1.

11. (Amended) Computer readable media adapted to operate a computer or network of computers in accordance with claim 1.

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment amends Claims 7-8 and 10-11 so that these claims are no longer multiply dependent in order to reduce official fees. The Applicants may elect to amend Claims 7-8 and 10-11 to make them again multiply dependent or to add additional claims to this application to provide coverage similar to, broader than, or narrower than the present claims at any time during the pendency of the above-identified U.S. application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosure: Appendix A (1 page)

## Appendix A

(VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE)

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Please amend the Claims as indicated below.

7. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 6]claim 1 wherein the transmission step includes additional intervening steps such as spooling the email or handling the email by mail-servers or any other operations as may be required by the particular email implementations or system architecture.

8. (Amended) A method as claimed in [any one of claims 1 to 7]claim 1 wherein following step (c) in claim 1, the sender amends the email and initiates a send operation in accordance with either step (b) in claim 1 whereupon the email is again subjected to the transmission criteria, or the email is processed in accordance with step (d) in claim 1 where the email is immediately transmitted to the recipient(s) with no further intervention.

10. (Amended) A computer or network of computers adapted to operate in accordance with the method of [any one of claims 1 to 9]claim 1.

11. (Amended) Computer readable media adapted to operate a computer or network of computers in accordance with [any one of claims 1 to 9]claim 1.